ABSTRACT

　　Disclosed is a packet communication device capable of flexibly adding a function easily without suspending the service. To the switch element (SWE), the interface element
5　(IFE) and the controller (CTRL) are connected. The function processor (FP) can be connected to SWE in accordance with the necessary function and number. In the IFE, it is judged what kind of functional processing is required for an incoming packet, and through which output IFE, the
10　transmission is performed to the outside, and the forwarding information when the packet is forwarded within the packet device on the basis of the judgment result will be imparted to the packet.